

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT**



**WASHTENAW COUNTY RESIDENTS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS  
TO DISCUSS SPRAWL**

# Brater Press Release

(LANSING)—Over 30 people came to Washtenaw Community College on Thursday night to share their ideas and concerns about land use in Michigan. The town hall meeting was

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sponsored by State Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) and Representative Chris Kolb (D-Ann Arbor), both members of the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council.

"I'm so pleased with the turnout here tonight," said Brater. "The opinions and ideas presented this evening are very valuable in the ongoing discussion of land use in our state. There are so many views and perspectives on this issue that it really helps to hear what our citizens have to say. The suggestions they articulated tonight were thoughtful, impassioned, and creative."

The meeting was attended by numerous local officials, including representatives from county, city, and township boards and commissions. There were also builders, developers, farmers, and concerned local citizens. Over 25 attendees addressed the panel, commenting on issues from farmland protection and watershed planning to new urbanism and support for affordable housing.

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"The report we provide to Governor Granholm in August will not be something that just sits on a shelf and collects dust," said Brater. "We realize that the task ahead of us is not an easy one but, I think everyone on the Council is committed to finding solutions and giving the Governor a workable plan for land use in our state."

The Governor's Land Use Leadership Council was formed by Governor Granholm and Legislative leaders to study the causes and consequences of urban sprawl. Brater and Kolb are two of only four legislators selected to serve on this 26 member Council. They held their initial meeting last week at which the Governor encouraged them to find ways to preserve Michigan's natural treasures while promoting economic growth.

"Everyone around the table at our initial meeting was energized by the discussion and anxious to get to work," said Brater. "Although the next full meeting of the Council isn't scheduled for another week, Rep. Kolb and I wanted to meet with our own constituents and take their ideas and concerns back to the group."

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